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**NOTICE: Urgent advisory from the Board of Registration of  
Embalming and Funeral Directing**

*April 8, 2020*

The Board of Registration of Embalming and Funeral Directing wishes to remind its registrants that they are required to remove any medical devices that cannot be cremated and that cremating bodies with installed pacemakers creates a hazard of explosion and presents a danger to the workers who are present. Also, although the Office of the Medical Examiner has waived the 48 hour delay for cremation during the state of emergency, proper paperwork is still required for cremation and/or burials. The Board understands that funeral directors and their employees are operating in highly unusual and stressful circumstances; however, the failure to follow the Board's documentation and practice standards will result in a delay of proper disposition, to the detriment of all concerned. Please be sure to have all of your paperwork in order (e.g. permits, signed documentation from the family, and Medical Examiner release. See 239 CMR 3.09, 3.10, and 3.11) and follow the guidelines set up by the crematories and cemeteries. You may be required to notify the crematory or cemetery in advance of transporting the body.

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